



GRADUATE
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Annual Report

Graduate Students' Association
of the University of Calgary

2017 - 2018



Mission

We provide a strong foundation for our members and community by offering valued services and programs that support and empower graduate students during and after their academic endeavours. We create an environment built on fiscal sustainability, social engagement, and effective representation.

Vision

We will be a recognized leader in graduate student representation in Canada.

Commitments

- Resilience - to be organizationally sustainable by being fiscally accountable, environmentally responsible, and providing a strong foundation of effective governance;
- Student Engagement - to use effective communication to engage our members and the wider community, to create awareness, to advocate to government, and to offer programs and services that contribute to overall student success; and
- Organizational Learning - to continually seek and utilize the most effective ways to represent graduate students.

Values

- Communication - achieving goals through effective communication and teamwork;
- Collaboration - determined for deeper understanding through co-operation;
- Accountability - using transparency to create understanding;
- Adaptability - continuous learning, improvements and assessments; and
- Legacy - creating lasting memories.

Message from the President

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) of the University of Calgary (UCalgary) sets out year after year in pursuit of our strategic vision to be a recognized leader in graduate representation in Canada. The GSA supports graduate students on a daily basis by advocating on their behalf, addressing their needs, and providing services and programs to support their academic endeavours. We accomplish this by providing a strong foundation for our members and community through the services and programs that empower graduate students during and after their academic endeavors. We aim to create an organization built on fiscal sustainability, student engagement, and effective representation.

The 2017-2018 academic year has been a historic one with many new initiatives and endeavours to better serve graduate students. For example, we established the Labour Relations Pilot Committee to oversee the development of a permanent committee, which will oversee our labour relations with academically employed graduate students and the University. Responding to student requests, we created a new policy for Graduate Student Groups, which allows graduate students to form student clubs based on interests outside of their research and academic pursuits. We also introduced several new sustainability initiatives in the Last Defence Lounge, such as waste audits and a sustainability statement.

These initiatives were made possible by my incredible executive team, Willem Klumpenhauer, Taha Afyouni, Christiana Manzocco, and Negar Mohammadi, GSA staff, our Senior Leadership Team, committee members, and countless volunteers. The GSA continues to grow year after year and this trajectory would not be possible without these people who are so passionate about the graduate student experience. It has been an honour to serve our graduate student community along with these individuals.

I am very much looking forward to working with the new executive team, Marcela Lopes, Mina Iskander, Mohammad Mansouri, and Elena Favaro, as 2018–2019 looks to be another fantastic year. We have plans to renew our strategic plan, Peer Beyond, strengthen connections with our Departmental Graduate Associations (DGAs), and enter into a new Health and Dental plan contract.

The GSA is truly making its mark across the country as a recognized leader, but none of this work is possible without our team of volunteers and I urge you to consider where you might contribute to improving the graduate student experience at UCalgary. Try something new, get involved, find your passion!

Wishing you academic and personal success this year,

Brit Paris
GSA President, 2017-2018



Board of Directors 2017 - 2018



Brit Paris, 2017 - 2018 President

Brit began her term as GSA President while an MA Student in the Werklund School of Education. She successfully defended her thesis on the influence of language proficiency on student response to written corrective feedback in the summer of 2017 and began her PhD in Educational Research in September 2017. Brit also holds a BA in German and a BA (Honours) in Linguistics from the UCalgary, and a BEd from the University of Alberta. Her current research interests focus on post-secondary students' use of written corrective feedback and the instructional strategies that can be employed to improve this use.

Before returning for graduate studies, Brit taught German in Rwanda and England and served as a Department Head and Curriculum Leader. Upon her return to the UCalgary, Brit immediately became involved in the student body as an executive member of her faculty's graduate students' association and a member of the Graduate Representative Council (GRC). Brit strives to be a leader of leaders in order to create an inclusive community environment for all graduate students at the UCalgary. She is also an advocate for Open Access and currently manages two, open-access journals hosted by the UCalgary.

In addition to her activities on campus, Brit is a co-captain of her Dragon Boat team and enjoys travelling, knitting, hiking, skiing, and rock climbing with her husband, Sean.

Accomplishments:

- Initiated the Graduate Student Group Policy which allows graduate students to organize student clubs based on their extracurricular interests, with the support of the GSA Events Coordinator and the Board of Directors.
- Conducted a comprehensive By-Law Review, implementing labour changes with the support of the Executive Director, VP External, and Governance Committee.
- Lead the successful renegotiation of the Collective Agreement, with support from the GSA Researcher, Executive Director, and VP External.
- Lead a re-envisioning of the GSA committee structure and implemented the changes for the 2018-2019 year.
- Renegotiated the Emergency Bursary Program for graduate students, including access to the fund for students on maternity leave.



Negar Mohammadi, 2017 - 2018 VP Academic

Negar successfully defended her Master of Science in Neuroscience at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Cumming School of Medicine. Her research focused on finding the seizure onset zone in patients with focal Epilepsy using multimodal brain imaging approaches.

Negar moved to Calgary in July 2016 from Toronto, Ontario where she graduated from the University of Toronto in Neuroscience and Physiology, to pursue a master of science in Clinical Neurosciences at the UCalgary. In her first year, she ran for the 2017-2018 GSA VP Academic and started her role in May 2017. As VP Academic, Negar was responsible for adjudication and evaluation of the GSA awards, organizing professional development events, and advising students on academic crises.

Negar gained valuable skills from the students, GSA staff, and university executives, and implemented those skills to help improve the GSA in numerous ways.

Accomplishments:

- Created the first ever GSA Award Timeline.
- Streamlined the GSA Innovation, Development & Entrepreneurship Award's (IDEA) adjudication, evaluation, and pitch competition ceremony.
- Acted as an advisor for students regarding academic crisis, student-supervisory issues, and academic/research integrity.



Willem Klumpenhower, 2017 -2018 VP External

Willem finished his PhD this year at the Schulich School of Engineering working on improving transit reliability. Willem received his Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Theoretical Physics from the University of Guelph in 2013 where he worked with the team responsible for the APXS instrument currently on board the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity and the Mars Exploration Rover – Opportunity.

Since then, Willem has turned his interest and analytical thinking to transportation, working first as a Rail Traffic Controller for CP Rail before starting his graduate program at the UCalgary under Dr S.C. Wirasinghe. Willem is a firm believer in the need for clearer thinking about how people move in cities and is an advocate for walking, cycling, and transit-oriented projects in Calgary. He has spoken at city council several times and frequently writes about making Calgary a better place to live on his editorial website: Spur the New West. He has also written for CBC and The Sprawl, and made radio appearances to discuss transportation issues in Calgary on CJSW and QR770 with Danielle Smith.

For fun, Willem volunteers as an actor and backstage improviser at Calgary's Loose Moose Theatre. He has performed in productions of Snow White and Several Dwarves (as a dwarf) and Elves and the Shoemaker (as an elf). When you meet him, the irony of these roles will become clear.

Accomplishments:

- Chaired the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council, advocating to the provincial government on behalf of over 21,000 graduate students across four institutions in the province.
- Spearheaded the changes to the GSA's governance structure to accommodate changes in graduate student labour legislation, brought about by the introduction of An Act to Enhance Post-Secondary Bargaining.
- Willem was an active participant in the search committee for the 14th Chancellor of the UCalgary, Deborah Yedlin.



Taha Afyouni, 2017 - 2018 VP Student Life

Taha finished his Master's degree this year at the Schulich School of Engineering in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering with an interdisciplinary specialization in Environmental Engineering. He discovered his passion for sustainability and environmental remediation during his BSc degree where he specialized in Environmental and Water Engineering at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

For the past several years, Taha has held various roles in student affairs, working to engage students and to address the gaps he noticed in his student experience. Taha brought his expertise to the GSA and provided programming and services that helped the graduate student body at the UCalgary socially, professionally, and academically.

During his free time, Taha enjoys travelling, hiking, and playing board games. In addition, Taha enjoys learning languages and can speak several. He is also an active presence on campus and has planned numerous events since joining the UCalgary.

Accomplishments:

- Oversaw seven GSA committees that worked on enhancing the graduate student experience at the UCalgary through reducing isolation, providing mental health workshops and resources, and advocating on behalf of international students, students living in residence, and LGBTQIA2+ students.
- With the help of the GSA Events Coordinator, organized 165 events with 6,261 total attendees from May 2017 to April 2018.
- Worked on improving the GSA's Elections Communications Plan that led to the GSA's most engaged election yet!



Christiana Manzocco, 2017 - 2018 VP Finance and Services

Christiana is a Masters of Business Administration student, with a strong breadth of work experience in management consulting, women's fashion and start-ups across varying industries. She is passionate about sustainability initiatives, entrepreneurial thinking, financial management and strategic planning, and she loved utilizing these skillsets in her work with the GSA.

With a Bachelor of Commerce in International Business, Christiana is an avid traveller with an interest in global trade and business strategy. She has worked in cities across Canada and is eager to one day work in Europe. She has worked in student affairs, and the student experience is very important to her; from student mentorship, to navigating the health and dental plan to provide the most value for students.

Christiana felt uniquely fortunate to be in a role where she could directly impact the lives of students and the post-secondary experiences they had both academic and extra-curricular.

Accomplishments:

- Oversaw the work of the Sustainability Committee in its second year of operations. The Committee undertook a comprehensive audit of the Last Defence Lounge and Graduate Students' Association. Many significant findings were uncovered with respect to waste management, suppliers and sourcing of proteins and overall environmental and social sustainability within the GSA.
- Through our work with the Sustainability Committee we developed a partnership with the Sustainability Office at the UCalgary for the Graduate Students' Association Sustainability Award; adjudicated by sustainability experts within the Sustainability Office and funded partially annually by the GSA and by the Sustainability Office (\$250 per year).
- With the advent of composting at the LDL, waste was weighed to determine how much was diverted. A waste audit was conducted which yielded valuable feedback and will be conducted quarterly.
- A health and dental plan working group was created to analyze the costs and benefits of the health and dental plan to members and ensure that the best value was obtained.
- An investment club was brought together with guidance from the Royal Bank of Canada to provide graduate students with the education and opportunity to explore direct investing. 30 students participated in planning their own portfolios and at the end of 1 term results were compared to select the winner.



2017-2018 Executive: L to R, Taha Afyouni, Willem Klumpenhauer, Brit Paris, Negar Mohammadi, Christiana Manzocco



Our Staff



Jason Unsworth, Executive Director

Jason joined the GSA in May 2015 after graduating from Royal Roads University with a Master's degree in Business Administration specializing in Executive Management. Jason developed a passion for student government while studying Environmental Science (focusing on triple-bottom-line theory: financial, social, and environmental sustainability) at Mount Royal University where he was previously employed as the Director of Business Services for the Students' Association. Jason has expanded his interests in sustainability and business to include governance as it relates to organizational culture and strategy. Jason is a certified governance and non-profit board consultant and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate from Harvard University in Non-profit Management.

There are many accomplishments in which Jason is proud of during his time at the GSA, but the most important is being able to support the graduate student leaders shape the GSA to positively impact current and future graduate students. Streamlining GSA finances, developing policies to help guide decision making, and working with GSA staff and executives to deliver on the GSA's mission has been a rewarding experience.

From an academic perspective, Jason is interested in decision modelling using a balanced scorecard approach as it relates to strategic planning. From a non-academic perspective, Jason enjoys playing hockey, reading, riding his bike, travelling, and spending valuable moments with his wife Lara and daughter Olive.



Danielle Abbott, Director of Finance & Operations

Danielle has been with the GSA for four years, developing systems and procedures in the finance department of the organization. Along with keeping the financial records of the GSA up to date and accurate, Danielle helps the GSA Executive Board and Finance Standing Committee understand the basics of financial reporting so they feel empowered in their decision making and oversight positions.

Danielle earned her Bachelor of Commerce with a Major in Accounting through Dalhousie University's Cooperative Program in Halifax, Nova Scotia – her home province. Danielle is currently working toward her Masters in Public Administration Management through Dalhousie's online blended program.

During this school year, Danielle was on maternity leave welcoming her second daughter to the world. She is excited to be back at the GSA to hit the ground running as the next school year gets started. Overseeing the Last Defence Lounge, Volunteer Recruitment Program, GSA Human Resources, GSA Finances, and other operations, Danielle plans to have a fulfilling year motivating her team to exceed their goals and challenging herself to think outside the box with unique and innovative management approaches and solutions.



Andrew Smith, Communications and Marketing Manager

Andrew has been with the GSA for the last seven years as the lead role of the Communications and Marketing Department. Over this period, he has seen the GSA grow both in the number of staff and executives, and also the growth of services available to graduate students.

Andrew has a degree in Communications from UCalgary along with diplomas in Print Management Technology, and New Media Production and Design from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. He also holds certificates in Public Relations and Conflict Resolution from Mount Royal University. Recently, Andrew has been working towards a Communications Management Professional designation through the International Association of Business Communicators.

Achievements this year for Andrew included the large number of graduate students running for Executive positions, and the high numbers of membership voting in the Annual Election. Another achievement for Andrew was the GSA weekly newsletter winning an award for being recognized for its high level of student engagement.

Away from the office, Andrew has the unique interest of playing the bagpipes and comes from a distinguished piping family. Andrew is a two-time World Pipe Band Champion and currently holds the North American Pipe Band Championship title.



Thao Nguyen, Governance Coordinator

Thao joined the staff in August 2016 as the first ever Events Coordinator of the GSA. With the goals of hosting more fun, social, and skill development events for graduate students, Thao had taken the lead on organizing over 150 events a year which engaged over 6,000 students and community members. She also provided event support to GSA committees and other graduate student groups. Thao is very dedicated to improving graduate student experiences during their academic endeavours through social engagement and personal development. Recently, Thao moved on to a different position within the GSA as Governance Coordinator and looks forward to continuing to serve the graduate student body at the UCalgary in her new position.

Thao graduated from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in 2014 with a Diploma in Business Management and is working towards a Bachelor of Management with a major in Marketing at the University of Lethbridge. Thao served at the SAIT Students' Association as the Vice-President Student Life for two years before starting her career with the GSA.

Outside of work, Thao is a dog lover, photographer, and snowboarder. She is passionate about the arts and volunteerism, and is currently the President of the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, and Board Chair of the Calgary Vietnamese Women's Association.

Lina Girgis, Volunteer & Services Coordinator

Lina first started with the GSA as the Students' Services Administrator in February 2010. During her time with the GSA, she has seen the organization grow along with the number of services offered by the GSA.

Inspired by the guidance of GSA leadership, Lina initiated the Volunteer Recruitment Program and became the Volunteer and Services Coordinator in March 2017. This program assists the GSA Board of Directors in recruiting graduate students for volunteer positions with GSA committees and events. It also extends volunteer opportunities with external organizations to graduate students to match their skills and passions.

As her role continues to evolve, Lina performs many Human Resources duties for the staff and Executives. Lina now manages the Volunteer Recruitment Program and oversees the administration of the Extended Health and Dental Plan and the Graduate Assistantship contracts.

Lina has a degree in English language and literature from the University of Cairo. Lina has also completed a Professional Writing Certificate specializing in Marketing and Public Relations from the UCalgary. Currently, she is working towards a Human Resources Management Extension Certificate with Mount Royal University.

Away from the GSA, Lina likes writing literary fiction, painting, gardening, and contemplating nature.



Crystal Ellis, Administrative Assistant

Crystal has been with the GSA for one year as the Administrative Assistant and serves as the main point of contact for student and member services. In this role, Crystal enjoys assisting members with their inquiries regarding all GSA offerings including the health and dental plan, events, and student life.

Currently, Crystal is a full-time student in the Masters of Education program at the UCalgary and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree, including a certificate in Human Resource Management. She has worked in post-secondary environments for a number of years and has enjoyed supporting and engaging with students, staff, and faculty from many different departments and backgrounds.

Away from the office, Crystal can be seen running around Calgary marathon training, and enjoying time outdoors. As a born and raised east coaster, Crystal misses the ocean every day, but finds the beauty of the mountains to be relaxing and inspiring – especially during exam time!



Tatianna Ducklow, Communications & Events Coordinator

Tatianna joined the GSA in July of 2018 as the Communications and Events Coordinator after working in the Corporate Communications department at YYC Calgary International Airport. She is excited to have the opportunity to work and connect with the graduate students at the UCalgary from across the world.

Tatianna will graduate with a Bachelor of Communications – Journalism from Mount Royal University in December of 2018, and will hold an International Communications Certificate from completing her documentary field school in Mexico in 2017. She will also complete her Event Management Certificate from MRU next year.

As a newbie to the team, Tatianna is eager to help boost student engagement and has taken over the weekly newsletter and all social media channels for the GSA and the LDL. Her goal is to bring more events and connect graduate students through a variety of opportunities.

Outside of office time, Tatianna is an avid plane spotter and enthusiast who is always looking for the nicest Boeing. She likes to spend half her time in the sky, travelling for a new adventure, and the other half baking, reading and getting outdoors.



Daniella Ikurusi, Accounting Manager

Last year, Daniella joined the GSA as a temporary maternity leave replacement for Danielle Abbott in the role of Accounting Manager. During this time, Daniella provided guidance and operational support for all financial aspects of the GSA including the Last Defence Lounge. She prepared precise and timely financial reports, coordinated the annual audit with KPMG, and provided accurate financial information to the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support effective decision making. Daniella has a degree in Economics from the University of Prince Edward Island and an MBA in Finance from the UCalgary. Recently, Daniella has been working towards attaining her CPA Designation from CPA Alberta. Outside of work, Daniella enjoys travelling, listening to music, as well as playing Sudoku and various word games. Daniella is also passionate about humanity issues such as child hunger and education in developing countries.



Julie Brown, Employer Liaison

Julie Brown was the Employer Liaison with the GSA and has held this position since 2008. She has developed and facilitated workshops for more than 20 years and has 35+ years of experience in a variety of industries including Finance, Energy, Food and Beverage, Medical Services, Agriculture and Education.

Julie obtained her BA in Psychology and Career Development from the University of Waterloo, and has worked as a Career Development Practitioner, facilitator and certified behavioural analyst for more than 20 years. Her role at the Graduate Students' Association allowed her to work with thousands of graduate students, from around the world, in facilitating a variety of workshops, in one-on-one career development, and through the coordination of a mentorship program.

Julie found working with graduate students both stimulating and rewarding, and some of her favourite moments were those where the student found, and shared with her, success.



Chris Schneider, General Manager – Last Defence Lounge

Having been with the GSA for the past four years, Chris started off as a server, then moved into an assistant manager position, and finally to the General Manager position at the LDL. Chris's main goal is to improve the sales growth and overall profitability of the lounge while providing graduate students with a fun, safe, and memorable experience.

Chris has been in the restaurant/bar industry for the past 25 years in various roles. He is passionate about providing excellent customer service and also loves the culinary aspect of the industry.

Chris is delighted that the LDL had its most successful financial fiscal year in 2017-2018 and is proud of the work that he has done involving sustainability. Alongside the GSA, the LDL is working hard to identify sustainable practices to make the LDL both financially, socially and economically sustainable.

In his spare time, Chris enjoys playing sports, spending time with family, watching movies, and of course, hanging out with his THREE awesome cats!



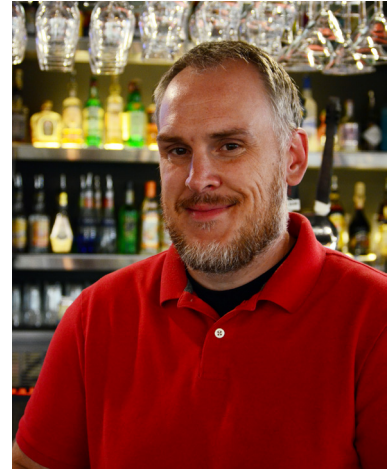
Matthew Broughton, Front of House Manager – Last Defence Lounge

Matt has been with the LDL in his current role since November 2016. As a graduate of St. Clair College in Windsor Ontario, with a diploma in Business Administration –Marketing, Matt has been in the Hospitality/Restaurant industry for over 20 years.

With the LDL's hours of operation, as well as the GSA's philosophy about work-life balance, working at the LDL has been an appreciative change of pace for Matt and his family. Matt is a married father with two daughters, age eight and ten.

This year the LDL eliminated the use of single-use plastic straws and ramekins, and also committed to sourcing locally produced products along with carrying 30 different Alberta produced beers for the LDL fall menu. Matt is very proud to be a part of the GSA's commitment to sustainability that established recycling and compost programs to divert the majority of its waste from the landfill.

Matt considers himself adventurous outside of work and enjoys travelling, hiking, biking, and canoeing.



Colin Pratley, Kitchen Manager – Last Defence Lounge

Colin had been with the GSA for the last three years as the Kitchen Manager at the LDL. During this time Colin has created several tasty menus which have helped reduced food cost, waste, and wait times at the Lounge. This past year, Colin had also been involved with the GSA sustainability program to reduce the LDL's environmental footprint.

Colin has a diploma in Culinary Management from Algonquin College in Ottawa, along with a diploma in Hotel and Resort Administration from Georgian College in Barrie. Colin holds a Red Seal Certification as a Chef, and recently finished the CPR and Standard First Aid course, Pro Serve and Pro Tect certifications.

Colin has been working in the Foodservice industry for 30 years. He has previously worked with a cruise company in the Toronto Harbor, Movenpick, Calgary Flames Hockey Club, and the Stampede Catering department.

Away from the lounge, Colin is a member of the Wild Rose Lions Club, and also enjoys restoring antique wooden furniture. In addition to his employment with the LDL, Colin is also working to grow a personal home-based company as a social marketer with Modere.



GOVERNANCE & ADVOCACY

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was hosted on September 26, 2017, with 129 GSA members in attendance. At this meeting, the GSA's 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements, 2017-2018 Budget, and the revised Bylaws were presented to the membership.

The 2018-2019 AGM will be hosted on September 25, 2018, at the Last Defence Lounge.

Graduate Representative Council (GRC)

The Graduate Representative Council (GRC) is the GSA's policy-making body, comprised of the graduate student representatives from all graduate departments at the University with active Departmental Graduate Associations. It provides direction to the GSA Board of Directors on the political, financial and operational matters of the GSA.

GRC met monthly from October 2017 to May 2018 (no meeting in December) and decided on important matters including GSA fees, budget, and health and dental plan fees. The GSA Executive Board reported to GRC during these monthly meetings and answered questions from graduate student representatives.

Notable motions passed at GRC meetings were:

- The fee increases to the Graduate Health and Dental Plan by 6 per cent to \$600.67 with the Health and Dental Committee recommended augmentation of services;
- The increase of 10 per cent to the two or more Dependents Health and Dental fee from its current amount of \$830.46 to \$913.51 for the 2018-2019 academic year; and
- The GSA membership fee change of 0 per cent for the 2018-2019 academic year.

During those meetings, the GRC listened to presentations about various programs and organizations on and off campus including Open Source, Bright Space, USpeak, ab-GPAC, graduate assistantship, UCalgary's Cannabis Policy, Energized Eyes High Strategy, Research Plans, and Indigenous Strategy. The GRC was given the chance to learn about these programs, ask questions, and provide insights if requested.

For more information about GRC and find GRC documents, please visit the GSA website:
www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/grc

Special General Meeting

On April 24, 2018, the GSA hosted a Special General Meeting. 51 GSA members attended the meeting and were presented with two important motions. The members in attendance voted to approve that the GSA, under the recommendation of the Governance Committee, take necessary action to remove themselves from any obligation under the Societies Act (Alberta). At this meeting, the GSA 2018-2019 Bylaws were also approved to replace the GSA 2017-2018 Bylaws.

Labour Relations and Committee

In March of 2017, the Alberta Legislature passed Bill 7, to enhance post-secondary bargaining. This bill allows academic staff and graduate students to bargain with their university employers and designated the GSA as a "trade union". As a result of this new bill, the GSA established the Labour Relations Pilot Committee to gather student representatives from faculties of UCalgary which employs graduate students. This pilot committee had identified common labour issues for employed graduate students, collected feedback for the Collective Agreement negotiations, and proposed the structure and budget for the Labour Relations Committee.



Government Relations and Advocacy ab-GPAC



The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC) is a student-led, non-partisan organization that advocates to the provincial government on behalf of 22,000 graduate students that attend the four research-intensive universities in Alberta.

GSA's 2017-2018 VP External Willem Klumpenhower chaired ab-GPAC, the provincial advocacy group for graduate students in Alberta. In the past year, ab-GPAC focused on strengthening their internal structure and actively participating in government consultations on the topic of funding model for universities, and the agencies, boards, and commissions review. ab-GPAC released an advocacy priorities document and a budget submission to the Government of Alberta in the fall of 2017.

Throughout the year, ab-GPAC maintained a close relationship with the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), and the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC). They established new relationships with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Alberta Innovates, and the Ministry of Health. These relationships enabled ab-GPAC for engagement at various government events, and meetings for future advocacy efforts.

Learn more about ab-GPAC here: www.abgpac.net

DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE ASSOCIATIONS

Departmental Graduate Associations (DGAs) serve as the official representation of the graduate students in each department at the UCalgary.

There were 44 active DGAs and two consortia in 2017-2018, representing 46 graduate departments. They received bursaries and grants from the GSA for their operations and events. The GSA also strived to increase the volume of support for our DGAs for events, classroom bookings, and funding. This past year the GSA distributed \$15,278.00 in financial bursaries for the DGAs. Over 400 events were hosted by the DGAs, which played an important role for student experience and engagement on campus.

For more information about our DGAs and how to get involved, please visit: www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/dgasgrns

GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS

In January 2018, the GSA launched a brand-new program called "Graduate Student Groups" (GSGs) to expand upon the previous Graduate Research Networks. With this new program, graduate students can form groups based on research, cultural, or special interests.

Ratified Graduate Student Groups are eligible for operational bursaries, and event grants for their activities. There were 11 GSGs registered with the GSA as of April 31, 2018. Three new GSGs were formed since the launch of the new program.

For more information about our GSGs and how to start a GSG, please visit: www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/graduatestudentgroups



OUR COMMITTEES

The GSA committees and their 200 volunteers and leaders took on various significant initiatives to increase the graduate student experience at UCalgary this year. The four main committees created a legacy in different areas of student life including social engagement, advocacy, mental health, and wellness support. These committees also had a part in the financial and organizational health, and sustainability of the GSA and its operations. Those efforts brought the GSA further towards the mission to create a sustainable, accountable, and resourceful organization for GSA members.

Major achievements from our Committees:

Gender and Sexuality Alliance Committee [GSA]2:

- Pronoun Initiative
- Education and outreach through various events

Events Committee:

- Various social events including snow tubing, bowling, and Easter Eggs hunt

Graduate Residence Committee (GRC):

- Advocacy voice for graduate student residents
- Various events with collaborations with UCalgary stakeholders

Mental Health and Wellness Committee (MHWC):

- Grad Wellness Week and De-stress Weeks
- Mindfulness Series
- Anxiety Support Group

Newcomers and International Student Committee:

- Post-graduate work permit advocacy
- Partnership with Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Sports and cultural events

Finance Standing Committee:

- Review of GSA & LDL monthly financial statements
- Assistance to the preparation of GSA annual budget
- Review of GSA investment
- Support to the annual audit of GSA record

Governance Committee:

- Review of GSA Bylaws
- Review of Societies Act and Changes to Government of Alberta's Labour Code
- Creation of DGA Bylaws template
- Review of various DGA Bylaws
- Assistance to the GSA withdrawal of the Societies Act
- Assistance to the establishment of the GSA Labour Relations Board

2017 - 2018 Committees:

- Student Experience Standing Committee
 - Events Committee
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance Committee
 - Graduate Residence Committee
 - Newcomers and International Students Committee
- Finance Standing Committee
- Governance Committee
- External Relations Standing Committee
- Graduate Representative Council Initiatives Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Labour Relations Pilot Committee

Graduate Representative Council Initiative Committee:

- UCalgary Graduate Students Facebook page
- Professional development workshops
- \$9,200 worth of GRCi awards given away to graduate student projects

Sustainability Committee:

- GSA Sustainability Award with UCalgary Sustainability Office
- Environmental audit of the LDL
- Waste audit of the LDL
- Assessment of the incorporation of sustainability practices
- Educational events and panel discussion

Labour Relations Pilot Committee:

- Labour Relations Committee recommendations for the Bylaws
- Recommendations for the Collective Agreement negotiations

External Relations Standing Committee:

- Engagement with provincial government through ab-GPAC

Special thanks to our volunteers that dedicated their time and talents towards making a positive impact on the graduate student experience.

To see the list of current GSA committees and their updates, please visit:

www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/services/gsacommittees

GRAD WELLNESS WEEK

During UCalgary's UFlourish Week, the GSA Mental Health and Wellness Committee hosted the first Grad Wellness Week, October 10 - 14, 2017, with a variety of wellness events for the graduate student community on both the Main and Foothills campuses.

The GSA was busy hosting free breakfasts, yoga classes, paint parties, colouring sessions, a career workshop, and represented the GSA at the Outrun the Stigma race. 250 graduate students attended these events.

This week marked a milestone in the GSA efforts to increase awareness of mental health and wellness support, as well as encouraging students to seek out services and activities for a healthy and self-care lifestyle.

Over the course of the school year, the GSA organized two De-stress Week events at the end of each semester. Over 250 de-stress bags were filled with healthy snacks, and wellness supplies were handed out to graduate students. Over 500 graduate students participated in each of the De-stress Week events.



Both the Grad Wellness Week and De-stress Weeks showed the GSA commitment to a healthy and supportive academic environment, and their popularity stressed the need for such programs in the UCalgary graduate student community. We look forward to providing more and improving our wellness events in the future.

Check out the GSA events web page for the most updated list:

www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/events

SUSTAINABILITY

2017-2018 marked an important milestone in the GSA's sustainability development with the operations of both GSA and Last Defence Lounge (LDL).

Many different projects were conducted by the GSA and spearheaded by the Sustainability Committee and the LDL management. They explored and implemented practices within the LDL to enhance the operation's social and environmental impact.

The GSA and LDL also had the unique opportunity to work intensively with the UCalgary's Sustainability Research Methods course. The student groups tackled six operational areas: food sourcing and costs; consumer demands; food waste and composting; operations and labour; purchasing and supplies; and beer sourcing and alternatives.

With the findings from the course and the recommendations from the Sustainability Committee, the LDL conducted an environmental and waste audit. From this audit, the LDL ended up opting for more local and sustainable food sourcing, introduced more dietary options for customers, and implemented practices to ensure a healthy financial position and reduce operational costs.



EVENTS & DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Events

The GSA worked closely with its committees to offer a higher variety of events for our graduate students over the previous year. Mental health and wellness events have been a focus. The GSA introduced the Grad Wellness Week, hosted De-stress Fests at the end of each semester, and offered year-round weekly yoga classes. The GSA also maintained the monthly paint nights, board game nights, and Zumba classes for the membership.

The GSA collaborated with various departments and programs on campus, such as Residence Services and the Global Family program, to host family-friendly events. Thanks to these collaborations, the GSA was able to offer discounted ticket prices and affordable transportation for a variety of events.

A high number of attendees was recorded for the field trips to the Corn Maze, Heritage Park, TELUS Sparks, the Rec Room, and Lake Louise.

Catering to student requests for more active living events, the GSA introduced the first volleyball tournament seeing an attendance of 60 students. Various regular events and introductory skill classes were hosted throughout the academic year to meet the needs of the graduate student body including the career development 'Let's Talk' series, and basic financial management workshops.



Halloween Party fun

Weekly & Monthly Events:

- Weekly Monday Trivia at the Last Defence Lounge
- Weekly Wednesday Yoga at the Loft
- Monthly Board Game Night at Crowsnest Hall
- Monthly Paint Parties at the Last Defence Lounge and Feasby Lounge
- Monthly Wine Wednesday at the Last Defence Lounge
- Monthly TGIF Trivia at Feasby Lounge
- Monthly Let's Talk series events

101 series:

- Skating 101
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding 101
- Ski & Snowboard 101
- Yoga, Belly Dance, and Cycle and Core tryouts
- Introductory financial workshops with MoneySmart program
- Self-defense 101 and advanced classes

Active Living events:

- Soccer Tournament
- Volleyball Tournament
- Ski and Snowboard Trip
- Canoeing Trip
- Snow Tubing Trip

Mental Health and Wellness events:

- Grad Wellness Week
- De-stress Fests and de-stress packs
- Yoga and Zumba classes



Trip to Lake Louise

Discounted Tickets

The GSA continues to offer a wide variety of discounted tickets to events, attractions, and activities in and around Calgary. This is a great service from the GSA to help students and their families decrease cost, and increase accessibility to fun, healthy, and active activities.

The discounted tickets offered this year include:

- TELUS Sparks Science Centre
- Calgary Stampede
- GlobalFest
- Cineplex movies
- Calgary Flames games
- Storybook Theater performances
- The Nutcracker ballet
- ZooLIGHTS
- Sunshine Village lift tickets
- Lake Louise Ski Resort lift tickets
- Calgary Corn Maze
- Heritage Park
- Calgary Zoo



**Number of discounted tickets
purchased by our students:**

2670

Total tickets savings for students:

\$35,221.52

Events Support

With the growing number of graduate student events hosted by GSA committees, DGAs, GSGs, and other groups on campus, the GSA introduced a process to support these events on campus which includes equipment rentals, third-party liability insurance, event resources, and classroom bookings. The Events Handbook, Event Submission Form, and Events Policy and Procedures were all created to aid this process.

To see the list of GSA events and discounted ticket sales, please visit:

www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/events

For more information, please email the GSA Events Coordinator events.gsa@ucalgary.ca

AWARDS, BURSARIES, & GRANTS

Alberta Graduate Citizenship Awards



20

awards
given at

\$2,000

Academic Project Support Grants



61

grants
awarded
totalling

\$58,719.91

Bursaries



45

bursaries
given
totalling

\$80,000

The GSA strives to support students financially through our annual bursaries and grants that were funded through negotiations between the GSA and the UCalgary. A lot of work was done to establish the terms of reference, adjudication process, and determine the awardees of the GSA's various bursaries and grants.

Special thanks to the Awards Committee and their 60 volunteers who committed many hours to this valuable service for graduate students.

The GSA administered the distribution of \$339,521.91 through awards, bursaries, and grants for graduate students.

Grants and Bursaries

Academic Project Support Grants

Fall 2017: 22 recipients, \$19,227.73

Winter 2018: 39 recipients, \$39,492.18

Total of: \$58,719.91

Bursaries

Fall 2017: 15 recipients, \$29,500

Winter 2018: 30 recipients, \$50,500

Total of: \$80,000.00

Emergency Bursaries

91 recipients, \$141,602.00

Alberta Graduate Citizenship Awards through the Alberta Government

20 awards at \$2,000 each

Total of: \$40,000.00

GSA Awards

\$19,200.00



AWARDS

2017-2018 Award Winners:

- **GSA Champion Award** – Gareth McVicar, Manager – Leadership Program, Student Services
- **GSA Lifetime Achievement Award** – Aida Nciri, Department of Geography
- **Mentorship Award** – Dr. Barry Bennett
- **GSA Sustainability Award** – Patrick Duke, Department of Geography – Students on Sustainability and Dylan McLernon, nDepartment of Art – Creating Sustainable Habitats for Bees
- **Volunteer Excellence** – Myra Chen, Department of Medical Sciences; Alejandra Enriquez Garcia, Department of Chemistry; Runze Yang, Department of Medicine, Neuroscience; Haley Vecchiarelli, Department of Graduate Sciences Education; and Leanne Dawson, Department of Electrical Engineeringw
- **GRC Distinguished Service Award** – Kyle McCallum, Faculty of Kinesiology
- **Leadership Award** – Tushar Sharma, Department of Electrical Engineering
- **Emerging Leader Award** – Sophie Hu, Department of Biomedical Sciences
- **Excellence in Administrative Support (Support Staff)** – Federica Gowen, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures
- **Excellence in Administrative Support (Senior Administrator)** – Elizabeth Paolucci, Department of Community Health Sciences
- **Excellence in Supervision** – Jennifer Lock, Division of Learning Sciences
- **Excellence in Teaching (Graduate Students)** – Zahra Shakeri, Department of Computer Science; Allison Bajt, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures
- **Research Assistants Excellence Awards (Graduate Students)** – Richard Slipp, School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures
- **Research Assistants Excellence Awards (Senior Assistants)** – Ajitha Thanabalasuriar, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
- **GRCi Awards**
 - Communication Workshops by Acting Your Science: Rachel Kratofil, Ania Zuba, Somshukla Chaudhuri, Alya Heirali, Department of Medicine, Immunology, and Nicole Mancini, Department of Medicine, Gastrointestinal Sciences
 - Innovation 4 Health: Danielle Whittier, Kathryn Simone, Abdullah Al-Ani, Andres Kroker, Jacob George, Riley Booth, Douglas Kondro, Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program
 - Health and Wellness Initiatives – Environmental Design Students' Association: Erica Hansen, and Janessa Lasaleta, Faculty of Environmental Design
 - Methods Day – Foothills Campus: Rhiannon Campden, Christina Sandall, Rujuta Deshpande, Nancy Adam, and Catherine Greene, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Aida Nciri awarded the Lifetime Achievement



Taha Afyouni addressing the audience.



Eating dinner at the awards.



Kyle McCallum accepting the GRC Distinguished Service Award

For more information about GSA Awards, Bursaries and Grants, please visit: www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support

QUALITY MONEY



Quality Money Program is the biggest funding program of the GSA for student initiatives and opportunities that aim to positively impact graduate student body through sustainability, support services, and multidisciplinary interactions.

In addition to yearly, ongoing projects, the GSA allocates funds to student initiatives each year. In 2017-2018, the GSA received applications from 48 projects, of which 33 projects were funded. \$145,531.00 was distributed in total.

Projects that were funded in 2017-2018:

- Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium
- Innovation for Health
- LAB Olympics
- Community Wellness Program
- Supporting the Operation of a Peer Reviewed Journal
- Amateur Radio Club Growth Project
- Communication Workshop
- UCalgary Meet Up for Graduate Students
- Music for Mental Wellness – Foothills Campus Choir
- TURN (The Urban Research Network) Graduate Writing and Publishing Workshop
- GSA Sustainability Award
- Students on Sustainability
- International Graduate Student Peer Support Program
- Academiology
- Building the Nursing Graduate Community During the Holidays
- Graduate Student Groups
- 2017 Active Living Series
- SAGE Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement
- Mothers Support Group
- Documentary and Discussion Series
- Environmental Design Year End Show
- SCPAGS Interdisciplinary Workshop
- Upgrading Jenna Chang Children's Resource Library
- Bow River Graduate History Conference
- FIFA World Cup Viewing events
- ITE Student Chapter Transportation Industry Mixer/Project Showcase
- Equality in Science
- Global Families Program
- StemCell Talks
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Methods Day
- Emergency Bursary Top-Up
- GSA Bursaries Top-Up
- Academic Project Support Grant (APSG) Top-Up

To learn more about the GSA Quality Money Program, please visit:

www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/quality-money-program/

Deadlines for 2018-2019 Quality Money intakes are: August 15, October 15, and January 15.



Summer Helmi with GSA President, Brit Paris



Project #18-156: Upgrading Jenna Chang Children's Resource Library

FGS/GSA GRADUATE RESEARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

The GSA and the Faculty of Graduate Studies once again collaborated to bring the 6th annual Graduate Research Photo Competition to graduate students in the winter semester. 35 submissions were received that reflected the broad span of graduate students' research and study disciplines. Each submission explained the origin and research story behind the photograph.

Judges from FGS and GSA adjudicated the submissions and awarded three top prizes (\$500, \$300, and \$100) and a People's Choice Award (\$100 UCalgary Bookstore gift card) during the reception on February 27 at the Last Defence Lounge.

Congratulations to all the winners and applicants. The winning photos can be found at the Last Defence Lounge.

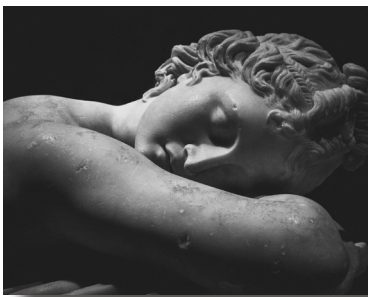
The following are the winning participants:



First place:
Mohamed Ahmed, PhD Student
Department of Geography, Faculty
of Arts



Second place:
Ana Karinna Hidalgo, Master's
Student
Faculty of Environmental Design



Third place:
Brittany Demone, PhD Student
Department of Classics & Religion,
Faculty of Arts



People's Choice:
Kulsum Fatima, PhD Student
Faculty of Environmental Design
Department of Classics & Religion, Faculty
of Arts

VOLUNTEERS

GSA volunteers are integral to the graduate student engagement, support, and experience at the UCalgary. Over 200 committee volunteers and 40 event volunteers participated in various events, initiatives, and activities this past year. This made a tremendous stride in our mission of improving the graduate student experience.

In March 2018, the GSA hosted the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and invited all volunteers to celebrate their contributions.

Volunteer Recruitment Program

Since the launch of the Volunteer Recruitment Program on September 8, 2017 and as of August 9, 2018, 110 graduate students have joined the program. 35 graduate students were recruited for GSA volunteer positions including Committee Chair/Vice-Chair positions, committee members, and event volunteer positions.

32 external organizations on and off-campus have been contacted and informed about the program. 25 graduate students have been connected to external organizations for external volunteer opportunities.

10 external organizations have extended volunteer opportunities to graduate students including:

- Faculty of Graduate Studies
- SAGE UCalgary (Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement)
- Enable
- Innovate Calgary
- Calgary Dream Centre
- Canyon Meadows Retirement Living
- Calgary Youth Science Fair
- AIESEC Calgary Global Exchange Program
- Calgary Famous 5 Foundation
- Calgary Public Science Institute



VOLUNTEER
RECRUITMENT
PROGRAM



GSA Bowling night

OFFICE MOVE

The GSA office moved from MacKimmie Library Tower to its new location, 1030, Earth Sciences. This move was to accommodate the reconstruction of the MacKimmie Complex.

The new office is located on the same floor as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and houses the GSA's full-time and contracted staff, as well as space for our numerous student volunteers. This location is also where the GSA hosts its Executive Board meetings, committee meetings, and the central hub for all GSA services including discounted tickets distribution, and Health and Dental plan inquiries. The GSA also set up a beautiful lounge area at the reception area for students who might need a space to sit down, relax, or have a chat with fellow students.

The GSA welcomes any graduate students to stop by the GSA office for a visit. Any GSA staff will do a quick office tour, and introduce our staff team.



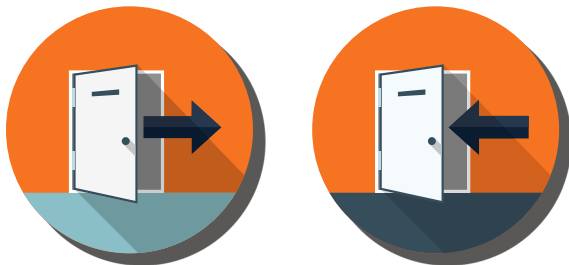
The former home of the GSA, MacKimmie Tower under construction.



The waiting area of the new office.



The new office space.



The new boardroom.

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS (IDEA)

This is the second year the GSA hosted the competition for the Innovation, Development, and Entrepreneurship Awards (IDEA). There were 11 entrepreneurial proposals in total submitted, of which ten teams participated in the Competition Pitch on April 13.

The teams' projects were evaluated by internal and external evaluators from the UCalgary's Hunter Hub. President Cannon was in attendance to give key remarks and view the pitches herself. The event showed a large student interest and had over 120 students and supporters at the Competition Pitch event.

At the end of the Competition Pitch, all evaluations were combined and the winners of this year's IDEA were announced. Please see the list of winners and summary of their projects below:

First place - \$10,000

Nanoparticles for Wastewater Treatment

ETAC proposes new solutions for wastewater treatment in an effort to reduce the environmental footprint of oil extraction in Alberta. Our solution is cost-effective and can easily integrate with existing processes. We are introducing a tailor-made environmentally friendly nanoparticle framework to increase fine particle settling and remove toxic contaminants from industrial produced water.

Second place - \$7,000

Concussion Detection

Criticare diagnostics is developing quick diagnostic and prognostic fluidic test (from blood, urine, and saliva) for improving the care of concussion patients. Utilizing our IP protected innovation, we developed a fluid-based test for the detection of concussion from the biochemicals that are found to increase after the injury. Using our device –SRCSense, sports personnel and clinicians will not only detect concussion and also know when to allow a concussed player to return to play. The collaborative approach to innovation with a team of researchers, engineers, clinicians, and business professional has led to the formation of Critical care diagnostics. We are now embarking on clinical testing of 140 concussion patient samples and have partnered with Dinos for the collection and detection of concussion amongst Varsity players.

Third place - \$4,000

Model Medical Innovations

Model Medical Innovations strives to empower healthcare professionals and provide better treatment and comfort for patients. Through research and working directly with nurses, doctors, and patients, we innovate solutions for current healthcare challenges. Our team's passion to improve healthcare for all is the driving force behind all of our work. With the release of our first products, LIVE Pole and the Modular Kit, we are confident in their ability to make nurses more efficient, patients more independent, and provide Alberta with better healthcare.

People's Choice Award - \$2,000

Pressed for Change

Pressed for Change offers a sustainable solution to Calgary's food waste problem by rescuing excess fruits and veggies from the landfill and transforming them into a nutritious and delicious cold-pressed juice. Our juice provides consumers with a convenient, nutritious and delicious option for increased intake of fruit and vegetables. Through purchase of a juice that has been 'Pressed for Change', Calgarians are helping to sustain local non-profit, Discovery House, an agency that supports women and children fleeing family violence.

To learn more about the IDEA Competition, please visit:

<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/financial-support/awards/>



The judges and audience watching a pitch.



Dr. Elizabeth Cannon making the keynote remarks.



Nanoparticles for Wastewater Treatment accepting first prize.

ELECTIONS

On February 20, 2018, the nomination period closed for the GSA General Election. Three out of the five GSA executive positions were contested and decided through a vote on March 12 - 13, 2018. The election saw a total of 13 nominees and record numbers for voter turnout.

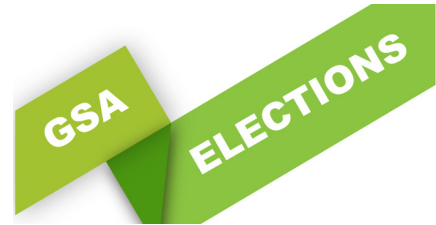
697 students cast their vote – approximately 12% of the graduate student population.

The 2018-2019 GSA Board of Directors:

President	Brit Paris
Vice President Academic	Elena Favaro
Vice President External	Marcela Coelho Lopes
Vice President Student Life	Mina Iskander
Vice President Finance & Service	Mohammad Mansouri

To learn more about the GSA Elections, please visit:

www.gsa.ucalgary.ca/elections



The 2018-2019 Executive Board



Leanne Dawson announcing the GSA Election results.

GSA Board of Directors

2018 - 2019

Brit Paris, President

Brit began her term as GSA President while an MA Student in the Werklund School of Education. She successfully defended her thesis on the influence of language proficiency on student response to written corrective feedback in the summer term and began her PhD in Educational Research in September. She also holds a BA in German and a BA (Honours) in Linguistics from the UCalgary, and a BEd from the University of Alberta. Her current research interests focus on postsecondary student use of written corrective feedback and the instructional strategies that can be employed to improve this use.

Before returning for graduate studies, Brit taught German in Rwanda and England and served as a Department Head and Curriculum Leader. Upon her return to UCalgary, she immediately became involved in the student body as an executive member of her faculty graduate student association and a member of the Graduate Representative Council. Brit strives to be a leader of leaders in order to create an inclusive community environment for all graduate students at the UCalgary. She is also an advocate for Open Access and currently manages two, open-access journals hosted by UCalgary.

In addition to her activities on campus, Brit is a co-captain of her Dragon Boat team and enjoys travelling, hiking, skiing, and rock climbing with her husband, Sean, and knitting.



Elena Favaro, Vice President Academic

Elena is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography where her research is focused on bridging the gap between planetary scientists and geomorphologists when it comes to investigating bedrock-abraded landforms and aeolian (wind-blown) bedforms on Earth and Mars.

Elena holds a BSc (Honours Specialization) in Geography from the University of Western Ontario, and an MSc in Geography from Queen's University. During her graduate career, she has undertaken fieldwork in remote areas of the Canadian High Arctic and Northwestern Argentina.

Elena began her involvement with the GSA when she arrived at the UCalgary in 2014. In 2015 she began what was to become a 2-year term as President of the Geography Graduate Student Association. In this capacity, she was also the Departmental Graduate Association (DGA) representative to the Graduate Representative Council (GRC). She sat on ad-hoc committees and was involved with leadership and mentorship initiatives before being elected to the Speaker position for GRC for the 2017-2018 academic year.

In February 2018, she stepped down as Speaker so she could run for Vice President Academic in the 2018 GSA elections. She's incredibly honoured to have been elected from such a rich nominee pool and strives to ensure that the trust shown in her by the student body was well placed. Elena is passionate about the student experience as it pertains to Academics, and is eager to get to work ensuring students have the tools, programming, and knowledge of university policies so that they might succeed in their degrees.

Outside of her research and the GSA, Elena is a member of the Girl Guides of Canada and is a leader with a Brownie Unit (7 to 8 year-olds) near UCalgary. Elena is also a competitive squash player and currently the Dino Women's Squash Team Captain and plays for the UCalgary Interclub team. Elena enjoys hiking in deserts, visiting family in Ontario, eating cotton candy, and hates birds.



Mina Iskander, Vice-President Student Life

Mina is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering and is doing his research on Fracture Mechanics of brittle solids under compression. Mina has an MSc in Structural Engineering from Ain Shams University in Egypt. As a registered Engineer-in-training (EIT) with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA), Mina has a wide-range of industry experience as a Structural Engineer in Canada and Egypt.

Previous to his time with the GSA, Mina was the Chair of the Events Committee and the Vice President Events in the Civil Engineering Graduate Society (CEGS) in 2017-2018.

Mina believes that being involved in the community is essential for every person who wants to stay productive and happy. Off-campus, Mina enjoys talking to people, taking long road trips, hiking, and deer hunting. Mina considers Canada to be a fantastic country because the people are the nicest and the Canadian wilds are so vibrant and magical.



Mohammad Mansouri, VP Finance & Services

Mohammad is a PhD student in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department at UCalgary. He successfully passed his courses and field of study (FOS) exam to begin working on his research in May of 2017. Mohammad also holds an MSc and a BSc (Honours) in Electrical Engineering specializing in control and power systems from the Isfahan University of Technology and the Technical Institute of Mashhad. His current research focuses on identifying sources and parameters of disturbances in power systems that potentially can make them more sustainable. Before entering his PhD program, Mohammad worked in the electrical industry.

During his studies Mohammad became involved with the campus student body as an executive member of his faculty graduate student association, later becoming a member of the Graduate Representative Council, and also a member of the Graduate Representative Council Initiative Awards Committee.

Mohammad believes positive change can happen in student communities if most members are active and involved in purposeful activities towards the cause. He also thinks that there are suitable volunteer activities for every individual in society.

In addition to his activities on campus, Mohammad is an active volunteer in IEEE PES, IGSA and enjoys travelling, hiking, skiing, billiards, and playing soccer with his friends.



Marcela Coelho Lopes, Vice President External

Marcela is a PhD Student in Transportation at the Schulich School of Engineering. Marcela received her bachelor in Civil Engineering in 2015 from Universidade Federal de Alagoas, located in her hometown in Brazil. During her undergrad, she was very interested in student policies, teaching and researching. She was a member of very well-known program in Brazil, in which undergrad students participate in research, teaching and external issues, such as serving the community by giving tutorials for high school students, advocating for better scholarships, creating policies, and advocating for research projects. As part of her degree, Marcela spent two terms in École Normal Supérieure de Cachan, in France.

After her Bachelor's degree, Marcela started graduate school and earned her Master of Science in Aeronautics Infrastructural Engineering from the Aeronautics Institute of Technology in 2017, also in Brazil. It was during this time that Marcela became interested in UCalgary as she spent one semester here developing research as a visiting student.

Marcela dedicates her non-academic time advocating on the behalf of students to create a stronger UCalgary community. From a research perspective, Marcela is passionate about the aerospace industry and aims to find engineering solutions to provide an easier, faster, safer, and more reliable transportation system.

Marcela is excited to serve the graduate students of the UCalgary in her role as Vice President External for 2018-2019.



FINANCES

Please see below the GSA's audited financial statements with year ending March 31, 2018, and comparative information for 2017.

For more information, please email the GSA VP Finance and Services at vpfs.gsa@ucalgary.ca

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2018, with comparative information for 2017

Assets	2018	2017
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,006,875	\$1,860,685
Short term investments	–	\$600,000
Accounts receivable	\$22,184	\$45,502
Inventory	\$22,245	\$20,378
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$326,945	\$272,138
	\$2,378,249	\$2,798,703
Investments	\$1,501,088	\$1,451,328
Property and equipment	\$730,364	\$866,450
	\$4,609,701	\$5,116,481
Liabilities and Net Assets	2018	2017
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$284,836	\$1,123,266
Deferred revenue (health and dental premiums)	\$1,014,795	\$822,164
	\$1,299,631	\$1,945,430
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	\$2,138,977	\$1,977,617
Internally restricted	\$1,171,093	\$1,193,434
	\$3,310,070	\$3,171,051
	\$4,609,701	\$5,116,481

Statement of Operations

	2018	2017
Revenues:		
Graduate Students' Centre Lounge	\$869,065	\$859,553
Graduate Students' Association	\$3,819,836	\$3,480,073
	\$4,688,901	\$4,339,626
Cost of sales	\$309,971	\$314,855
General and administrative:		
Graduate Students' Centre Lounge	\$579,343	\$629,020
Graduate Students' Association	\$3,584,073	\$2,977,455
	\$4,163,416	\$3,606,475
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	(\$74,083)	(\$64,837)
Realized gain on disposal of investments	\$4,899	\$598
Change in unrealized loss on investments	(\$7,311)	(\$428)
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$139,019	\$353,629

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2018	2017
Balance, beginning of year	\$1,193,434	\$1,977,617	\$3,171,051	\$2,817,422
Excess of revenues over expenses	(\$22,341)	\$161,360	\$139,019	\$353,629
Balance, end of year	\$1,171,093	\$2,138,977	\$3,310,070	\$3,171,051

Statement of Cash Flows

	2018	2017
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operations		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$139,019	\$353,629
Adjustments for:		
Amortization	\$102,076	\$112,220
Realized gain on sale of investments	(\$4,899)	(\$598)
Change in unrealized loss on sale of investments	\$7,311	\$428
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	\$74,083	\$64,837
	\$317,590	\$530,516
Change in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	\$23,318	(17,482)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(\$54,807)	(\$61,323)
Inventory	(\$1,867)	\$1,416
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(\$838,430)	\$198,209
Deferred revenue (health and dental premiums)	\$192,631	\$27,981
	(\$361,565)	\$679,317
Investing:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(\$40,073)	(\$100,027)
Purchase of short-term investments	–	(\$600,000)
Proceeds from maturity of short-term investments	\$600,000	\$579,071
Purchase of investments	(\$448,061)	(\$1,500,228)
Proceeds from disposal of investments	\$395,889	\$49,070
	\$507,755	(\$1,572,114)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$146,190	(\$892,797)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$1,860,685	\$2,753,482
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$2,006,875	\$1,860,685

